

The Washington Post

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SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Partly sunny 57/39 • Tomorrow: Rain 65/40 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017 • \$2



PHOTOS BY ALICE LI/THE WASHINGTON POST

THE ARCTIC DILEMMA

BY CHRIS MOONEY
IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC ISLANDS

The football field-size CCGS Amundsen, breaking through the icy waters of the Northwest Passage, came to a halt. Traversing one of the most unexplored regions of Earth's oceans, the Canadian coast guard vessel found itself amid ice 10 feet thick. It reversed course, turned 30 degrees, and proceeded forward again, trembling along the way.

This icebreaker's objective was to carry scientists into little-charted seas high in the Canadian Arctic. There they planned to map regions of the seafloor at high resolution and pull up a sample that could reveal what happened here at the close of the last ice age, 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

But the dilemma the scientists on this vessel faced had less to do with ancient history than the near future. By helping to map a region that's only now becoming

Scientists came to explore these fabled northern waters — but that could also despoil a pristine habitat



TOP: The CCGS Amundsen breaks through ice in Peel Sound in the Canadian Arctic. ABOVE: Mark Furze and his wife, Anna Pienkowski, are researchers aboard the Amundsen.

navigable, thanks to climate change, they're part of a broader opening of one of Earth's most untouched environments to a growing volume of ship traffic.

It is perhaps the central irony of their mission: While they were conducting research that could help shed light on current environmental challenges, the resulting maps could also help open the door to more tourism, shipping and other forms of commerce that could damage some of the globe's most pristine waters.

"We as scientists can get into areas we've never been before," said Mark Furze, a geoscientist at MacEwan University in Alberta who was traveling aboard the CCGS Amundsen for the research. "It comes with a cost."

For half a millennium, explorers have tried to find passages through the Canadian Arctic islands that connect the Atlantic and Pacific. But only in recent years, as climate change has driven back

ARCTIC CONTINUED ON A8

Congress approves stopgap measure, evading shutdown

HURRICANE AID AMONG UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Bill extends federal funding through Jan. 19

BY MIKE DEBONIS
AND ERICA WERNER

Congress passed a stopgap spending bill Thursday, averting a partial government shutdown at midnight Friday but pushing into January showdowns on spending, immigration, health care and national security.

Among the issues still to be resolved is federal aid for victims of recent hurricanes and wildfires. The House on Thursday passed a separate \$81 billion disaster relief bill, but the Senate did not immediately take it up amid Democratic objections.

The stopgap extends federal funding through Jan. 19 and provides temporary extensions of the Children's Health Insurance Program, which has languished politically since it expired in October, a veterans health-care program and a warrantless surveillance program set to expire Jan. 1.

"It is essential that Congress

maintain government programs and services for our nation's stability, the stability of our economy, and for the security and well-being of the American people," House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) said Thursday on the House floor, urging lawmakers to support the stopgap.

It passed the House 231 to 188 and cleared the Senate 66 to 32. Thursday's congressional votes are expected to be the last of 2017.

The votes came after House GOP leaders scrambled Wednesday and Thursday to gather votes to keep the government open, seeking to defuse intraparty squabbling that erupted just hours after Republicans passed a

SPENDING CONTINUED ON A6

What's ahead: Tension in the GOP over priorities after tax victory. **A4**

A corporate stunt? Critics say big moves tied to tax bill are a ploy. **A5**

DHS weighs new steps to stop surge in migrants

Plans include separating parents, children to slow Central American influx

BY NICK MIROFF

The Trump administration is considering measures to halt a surge of Central American families and unaccompanied minors coming across the Mexican border, including a proposal to separate parents from their children, according to officials with knowledge of the plans.

These measures, described on the condition of anonymity because they have not been publicly disclosed, would also crack down

on migrants living in the United States illegally who send for their children. That aspect of the effort would use data collected by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to target parents for deportation after they attempt to regain custody of their children from government shelters.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has previously considered some of these proposals, but there is renewed urgency within the administration to address an abrupt reversal of what had been a sharp decline in illegal immigration since Trump took office in January.

DHS CONTINUED ON A2

Unsealed memo: Trump official calls teen's abortion "violence." **A5**

'Words to avoid' become vocabulary of resistance

BY JULIET EILPERIN
AND LENA H. SUN

The Trump administration is waging a linguistic battle across official Washington, seeking to shift public perception of key policies by changing the way the federal government talks about climate change, scientific evidence and disadvantaged communities.

The push drew fresh attention after employees at the Department of Health and Human Services were told to avoid certain words — including "vulnerable," "entitlement" and "diversity" — when preparing requests for next year's budget. But the effort to disappear certain language and

replace it with other terms is much broader, sparking resistance from career officials in federal agencies, outside experts and congressional Democrats.

Climate change, for example, has for months presented a linguistic minefield; references to it have been purged repeatedly at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department. And in late summer, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention issued a "language guidance" document to employees and contractors bearing

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EPA suit: Scientists say advisory board shake-up is "unlawful." **A9**

In striking rebuke, U.N. rejects Trump on Jerusalem

BY CAROL MORELLO
AND RUTH EGLASH

The U.N. General Assembly on Thursday overwhelmingly passed a measure rejecting the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a stunning rebuke of a U.S. decision that allies and adversaries alike warned would undermine prospects for peace.

Despite U.S. threats to cut aid to countries that backed the resolution and even funding for the United Nations itself, 128 countries voted in favor of the measure. Only nine countries — including the United States and Israel — voted against it. Another 35 abstained, and 21 were absent.

The vote in a rare emergency session was a public reproach of an administration that stands alone in the world in recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a status other governments say should be left undecided until the final stage of talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

The nonbinding resolution on "illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of

JERUSALEM CONTINUED ON A12



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ/THE WASHINGTON POST

Brittne Lawson outside Superior Court in the District after her not-guilty verdict was announced.

6 acquitted in inaugural-day protests

BY KEITH L. ALEXANDER
AND ELLIE SILVERMAN

The first six people to face trial in Inauguration Day protests that turned destructive in the nation's capital were acquitted of all charges, a victory not only for the defendants but also for advocates who argued the government overreached in its effort to prosecute more than 200 people arrested as

they marched through the city.

Following a nearly four-week trial and two full days of deliberations, a D.C. Superior Court jury delivered not-guilty verdicts Thursday on multiple charges of rioting and destruction of property.

The defendants — including a nurse for cancer patients, a freelance photographer and a college student — joined throngs of pro-

testers who took to the streets Jan. 20 to protest Donald Trump's election. Prosecutors said the six were among a group that cut a violent swath through 16 blocks of the city, smashing businesses' windows, tossing newspaper boxes into the street and damaging a limousine. Authorities tallied the damage at more than \$100,000.

As the jury foreman read the

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Cuba delays until April a historic transition that will see President Raúl Castro step aside. **A12**

THE ECONOMY During a tough time in the toy world, retailers hope last-minute shopping trips and longer store hours will pay off. **A13**
A lawsuit accuses Amazon, T-Mobile and other corporations of using Facebook ad-targeting tools to exclude older Americans from jobs. **A13**
After questions about the authenticity of food labeled "USDA Organ-

ic," Congress is considering a major budget increase for federal oversight of the industry. **A14**

THE REGION Virginia election board members set a date to draw a name from a proverbial hat to determine who won a tied House seat. **B1**
The mother of a murder victim is overcome at the sentencing of an MS-13 gang member in the young man's death. **B1**
Three members of one Lorton, Va., family were among the victims of a bus crash in Mexico. **B4**

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Temperatures may cool, but love doesn't have to.

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From shtick to TV empire.

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THE NATION Social science offers insight into why some men become sexual harassers. **A3**
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Vice President Pence made an unannounced trip to Afghanistan to meet service members. **A18**

THE WORLD
Embattled Peruvian

President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski defended himself before lawmakers threatening to impeach him amid a corruption scandal. **A11**
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